

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052706

16

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL NASSAU

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM USUN MAR 17

QUOTE

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SUBJ: LOS: SEABED COMMITTEE- SUMMARY OF SECOND WEEK- MARCH
12-16

1. SECOND WEEK OF UN SEABED COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS LED
TO MIXED RESULTS. SUBCOMMITTEE I PROGRESSED LABOROUSLY
ON TECHNICAL DRAFTING OF DEEP SEABED REGIME ARTICLES.
SUBCOMMITTEE II REMAINED BOGGED DOWN ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES
BUT HEARD SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE SPEECHES. SUBCOMMITTEE III
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PAGE 02 STATE 052706

COMMENCED STRUCTURED WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION ON PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT.

2. IN SUBCOMMITTEE I US DISTRIBUTED USGS PUBLICATION CONTAINING PETROLEUM AND MINERAL STATISTICS ON 120 COASTAL STATES. SUBCOMMITTEE I WORKING GROUP PROCEEDED WITH CONSIDERATION OF SEABED REGIME PRINCIPLES. AFTER SLOW START AT BEGINNING OF WEEK, SPEED PICKED UP AND SEVERAL IMPORTANT ARTICLES WERE DISPOSED OF. WG HAS ALSO BECOME ENGAGED IN WIDE- RANGING POLITICAL DEBATE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL SEABED REGIME. WG CHAIRMAN CIRCULATED WORKING DOCUMENT ON MACHINERY WHICH WG WILL PROBABLY USE IN CONSIDERATION OF THESE QUESTIONS.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE II STILL CONSULTING IN REGIONAL GROUPS ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OF CHAIRMANSHIP AND OTHER BUREAU POSITIONS OF WORKING GROUP AND ITS ORGANIZATION. AFRICAN GROUP CANDIDATE KEDADI OF TUNISIA HAS SUPPORT OF LATIN AND ASIAN GROUPS FOR CHAIRMANSHIP BUT EASTERN EUROPEAN AND WEO GROUPS ARE STILL SEEKING TO OBTAIN KEY POSITIONS ON SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THEIR CANDIDATES. IN MEANTIME SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TUNCEL (TURKEY) HAS INDICATED HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CHAIR WORKING GROUP IN INTERIM. USSR INTRODUCED DRAFT ARTICLE PROPOSING 12- MILE TERRITORIAL SEA. PHILIPPINES, WITH CO- SPONSORSHIP OF FIJI, INDONESIA AND MAURITIUS, INTRODUCED SHORT PAPER ON ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLES. PAPER DEFINED ARCHIPELAGIC STATE, ASSERTED SOVEREIGNTY OVER WATERS OF ARCHIPELAGO AND SUGGESTED RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH SEALANES DESIGNATED BY ARCHIPELAGIC STATE. NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA INDICATED SYMPATHY WITH PAPER BUT STRESSED NEED TO BALANCE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS. NORWAY SPOKE IN FAVOR OF 200 MILE OR 600 METER OUTER LIMIT, WHICHEVER IS FURTHER SEAWARD FOR CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS. JAPAN EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO COASTAL STATE MANAGEMENT OF ANADROMOUS SPECIES (PRIMARILY SALMON).

4. SUBCOMMITTEE III ATTENTION DEVOTED TO DRAFT PROPOSALS ON MARINE POLLUTION. DRAFT PROPOSALS NOW SUBMITTED BY CANADA , AUSTRALIA, USSR AND MALTA. PROPOSALS COVER WIDE RANGE OF MARINE POLLUTION ISSUES INCLUDING GENERAL OBLIGATIONS TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT, METHODS FOR DEVELOPING STAND-

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PAGE 03 STATE 052706

TION TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT, METHODS FOR DEVELOPING STAND-

ARDS, ENFORCEMENT (INCLUDING
COASTAL STATE) RIGHTS, STATE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY,
AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. WORKING GROUP AGREED TO CONSIDER
ISSUES FROM ALL PROPOSALS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN ORDER
PRESENTED BY CANADIAN PAPER. STRUCTURED DISCUSSION COMMENCED
ON BASIC OBLIGATIONS OF STATES TO PROTECT AND
PRESERVE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. USSR, WITH CO- SPONSORS
UKRAINE, POLAND AND BULGARIA, SUBMITTED DRAFT ARTICLES ON
MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

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UNQUOTE ROGERS

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